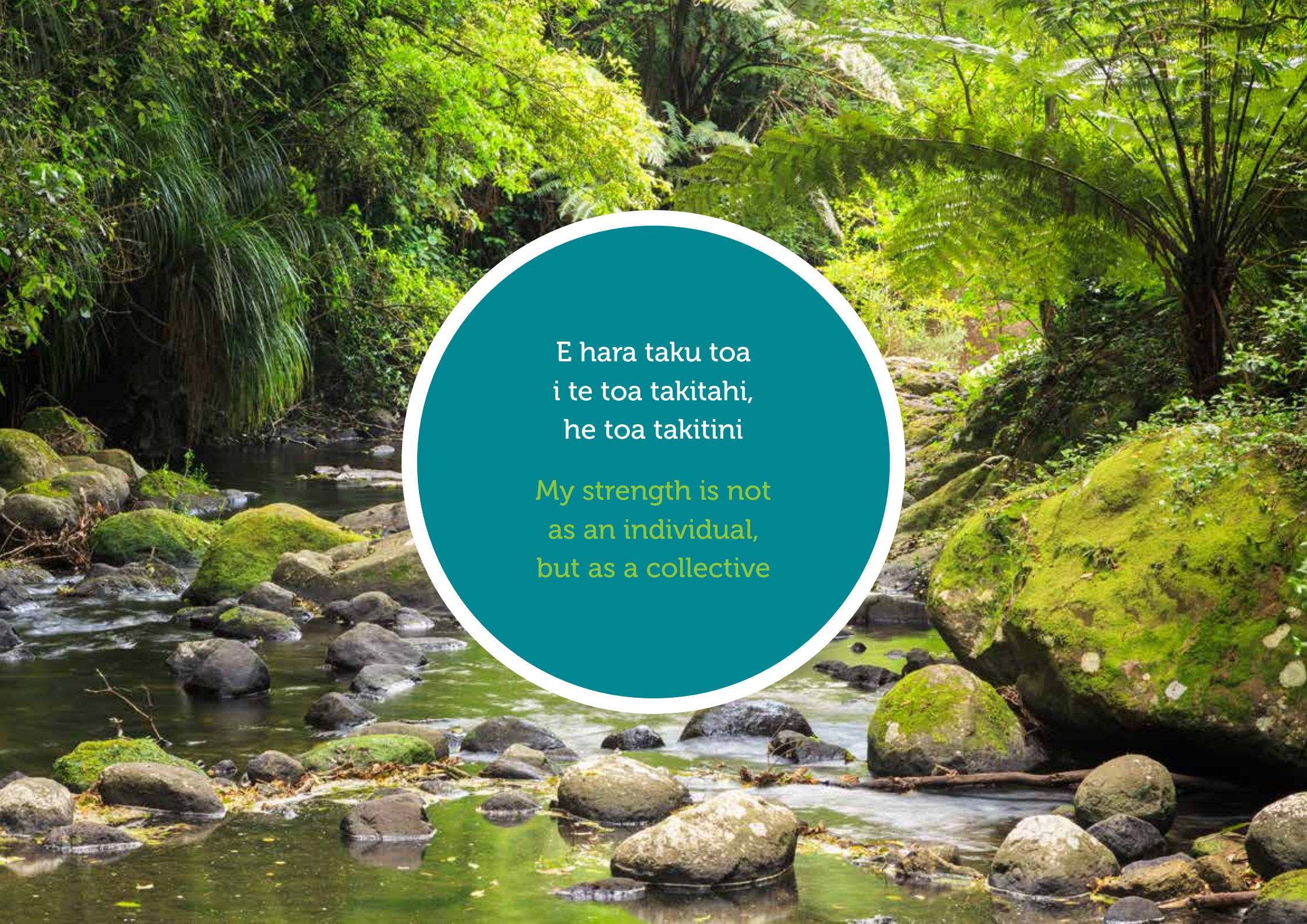


BAY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

# 2019 Annual Report





A photograph of a small, clear stream flowing through a dense, green forest. The water is shallow and reflects the surrounding foliage. Large, smooth rocks covered in bright green moss are scattered throughout the stream bed. The banks are lined with thick vegetation, including ferns and other tropical-looking plants. A large, semi-transparent teal circle with a white border is centered over the image, containing text in both Māori and English.

E hara taku toa  
i te toa takitahi,  
he toa takitini

My strength is not  
as an individual,  
but as a collective



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# A TRIBUTE TO OUR PATRON

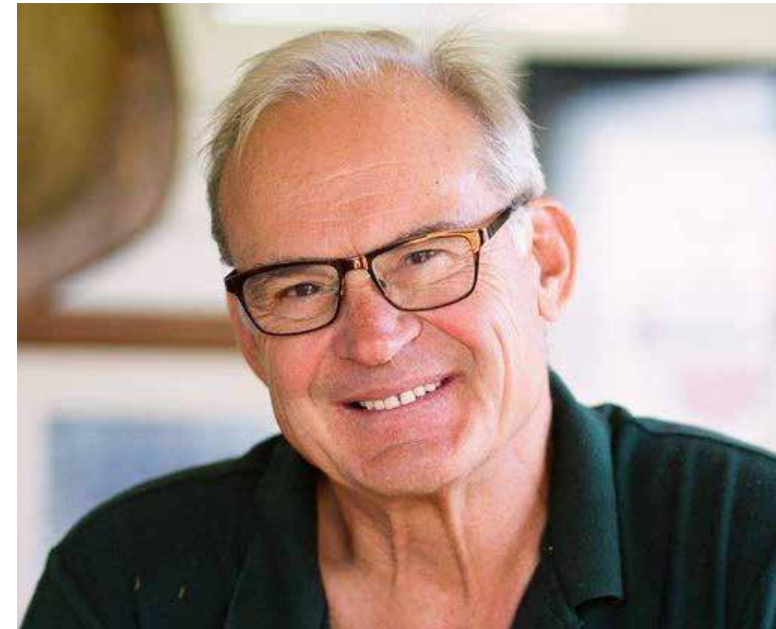
## WE WERE HONOURED THIS YEAR WHEN SIR ROB FENWICK AGREED TO BE THE BAY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE (BCA) PATRON.

As we were about to go to print with this report we learnt of Sir Rob's passing after sadly losing his battle with cancer. We would like to pay tribute to Sir Rob for the huge contribution he made to conservation and environmental challenges in New Zealand.

Sir Rob is highly regarded in the New Zealand conservation space. He is credited with inspiring the Predator Free New Zealand 2050 movement and held a range of instrumental roles including former chair of the Predator Free New Zealand Trust (an organisation committed to supporting volunteers involved in pest control), The Kiwi Trust and Predator Free 2050 Ltd.

*Sir Rob said, "I'm happy to be your patron because I believe by coordinating administration of conservation groups in the Bay of Plenty, the trust's work will present a valuable model for more efficiency in conservation in NZ. The role of volunteers in the war on predators is so important the less time they have to spend filling in funding applications and the more time they have killing stoats the better."*

Arohanui to an inspirational man.



# FROM OUR CHAIR

**MOMENTUM IS A GREAT WORD. IT'S FROM LATIN MOVERE, MEANING 'TO MOVE' AND ASKED FOR JUST ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE WHERE BCA IS AT THE END OF 2019, I WOULD SAY MOMENTUM.**

**We have now been established for three years, year one was very much assembling the jigsaw including funding to employ our Chief Executive; year two was developing a sound foundation on which to build, and year three has been all about gaining momentum.**

Forward motion is a key focus as we strive to support community conservation outcomes across our region. Here's a few of our 'momentous' highlights in 2019:

- We have increased our membership from four to eleven community groups, with several possible new members for 2020. This is a demonstrable endorsement that other groups and organisations see the attraction and rationale behind BCA.

- We have worked with two of the major philanthropic funders in the area, TECT and Baytrust, to revolutionise the way they fund small environmental groups.
- We have played a significant role in the development of the Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Project with representation on the Trust Board, the Steering Group and two of the three Project Groups.
- We have a dedicated Education Manager who has created an attractive and innovative programme. The year has included the development of an offering that would suit college level students. We believe there is a gap for meaningful environmental education opportunities at this level, especially considering this is the age that students are considering career pathways or looking to acquire skills that give them confidence to engage with community initiatives.
- We have moved to ensure that members have common financial systems based on Xero accounting software and to provide support for members with accounting or performance report enquiries.
- We have become part of the conversation. We are consulted and included in discussions on

future developments in the Bay of Plenty by most government, local and national agencies.

- We have our own office - if we are going to succeed a dedicated working environment is essential.

The year ahead promises to be challenging, but that should bring out the best in us. There is a very long way to go and certainly the issue of funding is never far from our minds.

We face 2020 with growing passion and continued commitment. We're gaining confidence that the support model we are building is adding real value to our member groups, increasing engagement and participation in bettering nature outcomes for our region.

Thanks everyone for your continued support.

**Julian Fitter**  
BCA Chair

# ABOUT US

## OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND SERVICES



### OUR VISION

A healthy environment enriching nature and people.

### OUR MISSION

Support, sustain and grow community-led environmental restoration and nature conservation.

### OUR AIMS

1. To connect environmental restoration and nature conservation projects through joining the Alliance.
2. To build an effective and valued platform through which projects can be initiated, supported and sustained.
3. To deliver key shared support services to members.
4. To increase community participation in member activities through advertising, education, events and effective volunteer management.
5. To promote current and develop new funding mechanisms to support members.
6. To promote partnerships as a means to develop landscape scale restoration projects.
7. To be a voice for our members and the environment.

### OUR SERVICES

These are our key shared support service areas with the intention of lightening the load on our member groups so they can get on with the real work:

- Financial management
- Administration
- Advocacy
- Education
- Communications & marketing
- Fundraising
- Project/operations management
- Collaboration
- Templates for compliance e.g. Health and Safety, general policy etc.

# OUR CE'S OVERVIEW

**The foundation of Bay Conservation Alliance (BCA) was driven by four active conservation groups in the Western Bay of Plenty: Aongatete Forest Project, Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society, Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust and Uretara Estuary Managers. These groups shared the aspiration of looking at new ways to support and sustain community-led environmental restoration and nature conservation, whilst lessening the load of day to day operations.**

It is with great pleasure that I get to play a part in turning that into reality. My reflection over the year concludes that it is all about the people. Community conservation in New Zealand is driven by incredibly passionate people, striving to protect our native taonga and improve our ecological systems for both nature and people to thrive. We also have a new generation coming through with a desire to tread more lightly on our planet, which means we have a responsibility to equip them with the skills and confidence to contribute to conservation.

It has been heartening and sometimes overwhelming as we spend time listening to the challenges we face and the significant energy and perseverance that is required to succeed.

There is huge scope to make efficiency gains and achieve so much more through collaboration and coordination. We are lucky in the Bay of Plenty that we have a history of doing this and are seeing great gains across a range of sectors. Conservation should be no different.

Our role is to help keep the energy and passion flowing through our member groups and help ignite new participation and collaboration.

One important task BCA can focus on is building a wider understanding of our region's conservation challenges and some of the great responses seen across our members to drive more support. The intention of this annual report is to not only share with you BCA's work throughout 2019 but to also provide a place to tell a collective story of our member groups. You will note our member groups have different metrics they track to measure their successes. This is another area we would like to focus on next year to develop some shared KPI's so we can help tell a much better collective impact story in future reports.

Having strongly focused on building our foundations, I am excited about what the coming year will bring as we cement our support services and really get down to business. We are

heartened by the support provided by many key partners and thank them for their contribution. We look forward to continuing to build relationships and further organisational capacity in 2020.

Nga mihi,

**Michelle Elborn**

Chief Executive Officer



**UNLESS SOMEONE LIKE YOU CARES  
A WHOLE AWFUL LOT.**

**NOTHING IS GOING TO GET BETTER.**

**IT'S NOT**

Dr Seuss

# EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE

## A GROWING BODY OF RESEARCH POINTS TO THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS THAT EXPOSURE TO THE NATURAL WORLD HAS ON HUMAN HEALTH, REDUCING STRESS AND PROMOTING HEALING.

**Now, policymakers, employers, and healthcare providers are increasingly considering the need for nature in how they plan and operate.**

An important step is ensuring our children have the opportunity to connect and learn in nature. How can we expect them to protect the planet, if we do not first introduce the beauty and the benefits?

Historically our member groups have responded to school enquiries in different ways. Some groups have hosted schools with the support of

great volunteers. Other groups have found this an overwhelming task.

This year BCA developed a new nature education programme which provides a fully facilitated hands-on experiential conservation education experience. Students discover how incredibly unique New Zealand is, gain an insight into many of the conservation challenges in New Zealand and learn a set of practical conservation skills. Activities and lessons include bird banding and ID, reptile and insect monitoring, rongoa, biosecurity challenges including issues like kauri dieback and of course the huge challenge of pest management.

We are currently operating at two sites – Aongatete Forest in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park near Katikati and Otanewainuku Forest between Te Puke and Oropi. A third site is being developed for 2020. We are also linking to the existing education offering through our member group Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society.

Our first year of operation has confirmed the need to have a strong focus on college level students as there is generally a gap in environmental education at this level. This too is the age at which students are thinking about career pathways or considering civic duties like volunteering. Our work with colleges in 2020 will see students developing real conservation management skills and participation in meaningful monitoring activities, in bona fide community managed conservation sites.

We believe we have an obligation to equip our young people with the confidence and skills to contribute to conservation outcomes for New Zealand.

**Brian Ireland**  
Education Manager





# FUNDING FOR SUCCESS

The Parliamentary Commissioner's report – 'Taonga of an island nation; saving New Zealand's birds' by Jan Wright in 2017, made a recommendation to establish regional biodiversity hubs to coordinate and support community conservation groups. This was in response to the recognition that the process of setting up a non-profit community group, obtaining grants, managing funds and undertaking conservation operations requires specialist skills. It also talked to the challenges of our current funding system which does not support administrative and financial management functions well, although they are fundamental to success.

Likewise, the report 'Transforming community conservation funding in New Zealand', commissioned by the Predator Free New Zealand Trust, makes a series of recommendations including the establishment of regionally linked institutions that provide visibility, strategic advice and practical support to community conservationists including landowners.

In line with these reports we believe that there are great funding efficiencies to be gained in taking a more collaborative approach and this has been a focus for BCA this year.

## Changes to funding systems

A very big thanks to our local funders TECT and Baytrust who were both willing to try a new approach this year. Each supported a combined funding application which BCA coordinated on behalf of its members.

This considerably reduced the administration load on each member group and indeed, for the funders themselves.

The outcome was very positive with TECT funding \$300,000 over two years across eight groups (including BCA) and Baytrust funding \$87,500 over one year across seven groups. This is a very welcome and substantial investment in community conservation.

## Setting up for the future

Having set up an endowment fund with the Acorn Foundation in 2018, we saw our first donors gifting into our fund in 2019. An endowment fund is a way we can build resilience for our organisation over the long-term as we strive to provide sustainable support.

We would like to thank the Acorn Foundation for the support they provide us on our journey.

To contribute to our endowment fund  
please visit [www.acornfoundation.org.nz](http://www.acornfoundation.org.nz)

## Community Conservation Hub pilot

Linking back to Jan Wright's report recommending the establishment of regional biodiversity hubs, the Department of Conservation announced a new community conservation hubs fund to open in 2020. While this fund is constrained, in order to have the widest impact across multiple regions, BCA will certainly be putting our name in the hat – wish us luck!



# THE VALUE OF SHARED SUPPORT



## SOME OF THE SHARED SUPPORT SERVICES WE HAVE DEVELOPED OR DELIVERED IN 2019

### Policy templates

Thanks to a helping hand with funds from Western Bay of Plenty District Council, BCA developed a Policies Template Manual for our member groups early this year. The manual includes templates for a range of things including governance, health & safety, communications, volunteer management and Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

The templates act as a starting point for each member group to review and amend to suit their own needs, which reduces organisational overheads and improves the quality of the results by not having to start from scratch. Well done to our member groups who have already implemented new policies!

### Good governance

We have reviewed our constitution this year making sure we are fully up to date with legislative requirements and that our model is taking the best approach. We have been delighted to hear a number of our members have used our constitution as a template for revising their own.

We also developed a success metrics tracker this year to track progress against each of our strategic aims. Progress against each metric is reported to our board on a bi-monthly basis.

### Members events

We held a number of members events this year. These included bringing member group treasurers together to refine our standard chart of accounts, look at Xero capability and discuss performance reporting.

With support from the Flaxroots Interagency Forum we celebrated National Volunteer week with a trip to Maungatautari Sanctuary Mountain with a bus load of Western Bay of Plenty volunteers.

We closed the year with our inaugural formal members event which we held in November 2019. This brought all but one of our member groups together along with key partners to enjoy some fantastic presentations and networking.

### Shared operational support

This year we have undertaken much thinking around the potential benefits of shared operational support. This will be a focus for us to deliver in 2020. We think the right skills shared across groups would add an enormous amount of value to conservation gains on the ground. Tasks such as site planning, time consuming processes like toxin applications to the Ministry of Health and DOC, increasing pest control capability and wider coordination are all on the radar. Watch this space!



A young girl with reddish-brown hair, wearing a pink headband and a blue jacket, is looking intently at a butterfly perched on a person's arm. The background shows other people, including one wearing a yellow and black plaid shirt. A large green circle with a white border is overlaid on the image, containing the text "THE REAL HEROES" in large white capital letters, and "OUR MEMBER GROUPS" in smaller white capital letters below it.

# **THE REAL HEROES**

**OUR MEMBER GROUPS**

## ALFA CHARITABLE TRUST



### Purpose

Formed in 2018 by arborists, ALFA is a charity focused on advocating for the strong positive benefits urban trees have on the health and wellbeing of the environment and the people within it. ALFA Trust aim to provide advice and information to landowners and local government authorities, support schools, iwi and private landowners in environmental restoration projects and to educate the community at large about the benefits of trees for humans as well as biodiversity.

### Location and area covered

Based in Otakiri on the Rangitaiki Plains, with a national outlook.

### Highlights for 2019

- Hosting events including a wetland restoration where a school was invited.
- Some of the best arborists in NZ travelled to help us with a large oak reduction in order to help save the tree.

### Key challenges in 2019

- Building a presence, creating brand awareness.
- Finding the spare time for administration including budgets, funding applications, health & safety etc.

### Metrics

- As a relatively new charitable trust, we don't have someone keeping track of the numbers in a defined fashion, but we had 60 volunteers assist with approximately 8000 plants.

### Achieving success

The key next steps for us to achieve the vision of our organisation are to continue to boost brand awareness in order to attract more membership. This would help us to be less reliant on funding applications for the next financial year (which take significant time).



"We've found BCA very useful with the policy/health and safety side of things although we're aware that constraints on our time mean we're not engaged as members as much as we'd like to be."



# AONGATETE FOREST PROJECT



## Purpose

A joint venture between Forest and Bird and the Aongatete Forest Restoration Trust, the project is focused on restoring native biodiversity including birds, insects & invertebrates to a portion of the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park using pest control and to demonstrate the benefits that more widespread pest management efforts would bring to the park.

## Location and area covered

500 hectares of lowland forest in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park, accessed from the top of Wright Road, Aongatete.

## Highlights for 2019

- Fenced demonstration area for translocated para (king ferns) completed.
- Third annual Breakfast with the Birds event very successful.
- New entrance with large information sign & boardwalk.
- New website.
- BCA's development of a professional education service allowing us to offer significant environmental learning opportunities to local schools in the forest we care for.

## Metrics

Trapping totals: 11 stoats, 275 rats, 163 possums, 22 mice, 28 hedgehogs, 1 rabbit.

20 Volunteer Wednesdays, 9 Volunteer Saturdays (baiting campaigns), 100 different volunteers, 3000 hours, 5 large volunteer groups from the community including businesses.

## Achieving success

We're very supportive of the work being done by Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust. We've proven pest control does make a significant difference, but without a bigger area of the Kaimai under management our vision of a flourishing forest will remain limited in scope as well as heavily reliant on the goodwill of volunteers and funding bodies.



"We've been very pleased with the support that BCA has provided in areas like accounting, funding and compliance and it has improved our organisational sustainability even more than we had anticipated."

# AONGATETE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE



## Purpose

Focused on environmental education and outdoor safety and sustainability, the mission of Aongatete Outdoor Education Centre is to offer predominantly school-age children memorable learning experiences with activities that develop positive life skills, encourage resilience and promote a love of and connection to NZ's native bush.

## Location and area covered

834 Wright Road, Aongatete

## Highlights for 2019

- New courses, including Outdoor Safety and Survival and Forest Discovery & Conservation.
- Installation of an automated security gate.
- Installation of back-up water supply tanks.
- Flood-protection drainage installed around main block.

## Metrics

- 23 school camps with 1400 students and nearly 500 teachers/parents.
- 19 other educational groups (800 students and adults).
- A 50% increase in bednights compared to prior 6 years.

## Achieving success

The key next steps to achieve our vision involve a significant upgrading and modernising of our physical facilities, our education resources and our online presence.



"We're very pleased with the support BCA has provided by applying for and securing the funding to allow an expansion of the Nature Trail Information Panels and other environmental education resources."



## ARRC WILDLIFE TRUST

### Purpose

Passionate about caring for New Zealand's native wildlife, ARRC assists the Department of Conservation, vet clinics and the public with the rescue and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife in the Bay of Plenty. ARRC works to educate the community at large about the importance of respect and responsibility for the wellbeing of wildlife, animals and our natural heritage.

### Location and area covered

Office in Fraser St, Tauranga - covering the wider Bay of Plenty.

### Highlights for 2019

ARRC has continued to provide a high level of care for the region's injured and orphaned wildlife. They successfully rehabilitated many birds including a few rare bitterns. Education of people and especially children is very important to facilitate the evolution of a society that respects and cherishes our wildlife and natural heritage. To this end, a number of talks to schools and community organisations have been given. The ARRC Kids Adventure books which

illustrate how wildlife are injured or orphaned by humans and what children can do to help make a difference have been distributed to a number of schools.

### Key challenges in 2019

- Obtaining funding.
- Organising education opportunities. This is where working with BCA has been a fabulous opportunity to leverage our strategy.

### Metrics

- Admitting and caring for over 800 birds/ animals (and the occasional skink, frog and weta!).
- At least 12 school/community group educational talks.

### Achieving success

The next steps to realise the vision of our organisation are continued collaborative efforts with BCA, to ensure we take advantage of educational opportunities and obtain the funding needed for our rehabilitation activities.



"BCA has facilitated some very helpful funding as well as organised excellent education opportunities (particularly with schools), allowing us to focus on what we know we are good at, relieving some of the necessary but resource hungry 'back-office' pressure."

## FRIENDS OF THE BLADE

### Purpose

Friends of the Blade/Pa Kereru are a community conservation group drawn primarily from residents in and around Whakamarama. Animal pest control using traps only is the main focus, with the aim of creating a rat, stoat and possum-free environment in which native wildlife can flourish.

### Location and area covered

Near Whakamarama (north of Tauranga), currently expanding to cover 300 hectares of the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park

### Highlights for 2019

- Opening of the Pa Kereru Loop Track in November - the culmination of several years work by the Mahi Boys (patients of the BOPDHB mental health service).
- Expansion of area under pest control.
- Good inflow of new volunteers from WBOPDC sponsored adverts.
- Increase in stoat kills.

### Key challenges in 2019

- Higher numbers of rats in surveys due to mast year.
- Trial of Smooth lure unsuccessful (despite being blue, wasn't effective at avian inhibition: increase in robin deaths as by-catch in trap boxes).

### Metrics

Gained 10 new volunteers, although we lost three. Volunteers hours: approx. 2100.

Trapping totals: 2000 rats, 480 possums, 670 mice, 25 stoats.

The most important next steps we need to take to be successful in the mid to long term are human resource oriented: we need to find a good secretary and a project leader with younger legs! Adding a further 100 hectares to the trapping network is our goal too, it will provide more room for our birds to breathe and breed.



"BCA is wonderful for linking us into a wider network; what we'd like is more practical help to cope with the administrative and organisational demands. The current leadership want to work in the bush with the volunteers, not be responding to what can seem like a constant stream of requests from our support agencies."



# KAHAROA KŌKAKO TRUST



## Purpose

Formed in 1997 by a group of local residents with the express goal of saving the remnant population of kōkako that remained in the area. Working closely with DOC to implement ongoing pest control in the Kaharoa Conservation Area, kōkako numbers have grown. An excellent example of what can happen when the community takes on the vital role of caring for and enhancing their environment.

## Location and area covered

30km by road north-east of Rotorua, half way between Rotorua and Te Puke as the crow flies with approximately 900 hectares under management.

## Highlights for 2019

- August: 3 pairs of kōkako were translocated to the Manawahe Ecological Area to try and help bolster their falling population. Unfortunately one bird died shortly after. One pair raised a chick, still waiting to confirm that it fledged safely.
- Port Blakely Ltd, who have neighbouring forest in which kōkako have been observed spending

time, carried out pest control in approximately 80 hectares at the same time as our sodium fluoroacetate bait station operation.

## Key challenges in 2019

- An ongoing issue is low numbers of volunteers. Many of our volunteers assist other groups in the Rotorua area.
- Ungulates are a problem, pigs in particular continually damage young nikau plants.
- Unfortunately, people still dump their unwanted cats and kittens at the end of the road.

## Metrics

2019 trapping totals: 12 stoats, 4 weasels, 216 rats, 1 rabbit, 24 hedgehogs, 5 cats.

Volunteer hours: 1400+ with monthly work days for track and bait station maintenance, 7 pest operation days for placing bait into stations and removal later.

## Achieving success

A genetically viable population of 250 pairs of kōkako requires 2000 hectares of bush. We

need more suitable habitat that is under pest management to achieve our vision. We already have another 130ha on our radar. The long term goal is to boost the population of kōkako so that they spill out of the KCA into neighbouring, pest controlled bush.



“We would love to have support from BCA around our communications, website and volunteer recruitment as well as training for volunteers around things like Controlled Substance Licenses.”

# MAKETU ONGATORO WETLAND SOCIETY



## Purpose

Wetlands are nature's filters, improving water quality and offering flood protection as well as providing critical habitat for native wildlife. Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society (or MOWS for short) is behind the creation and implementation of Biodiversity Management Plans that cover the conservation of four key coastal areas surrounding Maketu. The main aim of the group is ecological monitoring and restoration of these unique habitats via a pest mammal control program, removal of invasive plant species and education.

## Location and area covered

From Kaituna Cut to Waihi Harbour Wetland, including four key project sites: Maketu Spit, Newdicks Beach, Dotterel Point Pukehina and the Waihi Harbour Wildlife Management Reserve.

## Highlights for 2019

Continued growth of our education programme. No serious adverse weather events!

Second annual "Breakfast with the Gulls" event which attracted over 70 people.

## Key challenges in 2019

The reorganisation of our management team, with key personnel leaving or stepping back, upskilling those with willingness & talent. Also expanding our volunteer training programme so we can both identify and develop more people that have the skills required for the project: weed control, pest control, biodiversity monitoring, chainsawing etc.

## Achieving success

The key next step for us to achieve the vision of our organisation is developing our human sustainability - both management and work-force. This is critical to ensure the continuity and longevity of the group.



"BCA is key to our future operations and success.

Assistance to develop longer term funding and to work with partners to expand our projects as well as sourcing, training and maintaining an effective management team and workforce is where support from BCA is needed."

# OTANEWAINUKU KIWI TRUST



## Purpose

Originally formed in 2002, Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust was a response by Te Puke Forest and Bird and other members of the community concerned at the decline of North Island brown kiwi in the Otanewainuku Forest. Volunteers maintain our integrated pest management programme targeting stoats, rats and possums which has benefits for all plants and animals but particularly the kiwi and kōkako reintroductions which the trust manages. Over 4000 predators have been removed from Otanewainuku in the past few years.

## Location and area covered

Approximately 20km south of Tauranga (past Oropi, off SH36) covering 1200 hectares of forest.

## Highlights for 2019

- Extension of the car park for safer visitor parking.
- New website and branding launched.
- Successful monthly workdays.
- Great research work to improve the Romark bait stations and possum traps.
- Successful photo competition with 150 entries.

## Key challenges in 2019

- Predator control continues to be our biggest challenge.
- Developing sustainable funding for the future.
- Building relationships with iwi.

## Metrics

- Average of 15 to 30 people attending monthly workdays.
- 180km of trap and bait station lines, 250 stoat trap tunnels and 2142 bait stations.

## Achieving success

For Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust to achieve further success, we simply must maintain our robust pest management programme - there can be no let up, so we need to promote our work and encourage long-term volunteers. We also see potential with the next generation and are delighted to be one of the key sites for the delivery of BCA's nature education programme.



"BCA provides great support to Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust through education programmes, development of useable templates, the provision of networking and training opportunities and that sense of connection with like-minded conservation groups."



# TE WHAKAKAHA TRUST



## Purpose

Te Whakakaha Conservation Trust was founded to ensure the long-term survival of the ancient and critically endangered Ōtāwa Hochstetter's frog. Genetically distinct from other species, the Ōtāwa Hochstetter's frog is only found in this location, which some of was once a quarry site. Ōtāwa Scenic Reserve was officially designated a sanctuary in December 2016 and the Trust now supports an active volunteer network to restore and protect the ecology of this precious area, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, district and regional councils and local iwi.

## Location and area covered

Otāwa Scenic Reserve: 400 hectares of forest at 1254 No 3 Road, Te Puke. Some of this land was once a quarry site.

## Highlights for 2019

- Attending the Te Puke A&P Show with other environmental groups.
- Volunteer training day in May with 17 attendees: a thorough review of trapping, GPS, safety etc. led by DOC's John Heaphy.
- Planting day in September: 50 people, 1800

plants in the ground, many delicious donated venison sausages eaten.

- Weed busting day in November with 17 volunteers.

## Key challenges in 2019

- Funding - tricky having to pay for things before the funding arrives.
- Trapping track access difficulties.
- Lack of volunteer resource to assist with administration and communications (such as newsletters and social media).

## Metrics

- Volunteer hours 2019: 788 recorded (an underestimation we're sure).
- Trapping results: 5 ferrets, 11 stoats, 6 weasels, 206 rats, 131 mice, 34 possums, 24 rabbits, 4 hedgehogs and 2 cats. *(Note: Numbers do not include kills from the 500 automatic resetting GoodNature Traps in the Sanctuary).*
- We plan to cover 400ha with traps by June 2020.
- Extensive frog surveys are scheduled for early 2020.

## Achieving success

We need increased visibility and community engagement to continue the restoration work, as our long term vision sees the sanctuary area part of an essential wildlife corridor and track network that extends from Otanewainuku through Oropi Forest to Otāwa Scenic Reserve.



"We have appreciated BCA's efforts to obtain finances from big funders to support our programmes as needed."

# URETARA ESTUARY MANAGERS



## Purpose

Formed primarily to help clean up the rivers and streams running into the Uretara Estuary, in the past three years UEM have broadened focus into neighbouring catchments. So far, 8,000 metres of stream bank has been fenced & planted to reduce erosion and siltation. The group encourages native birdlife along walkways by developing and maintaining streamside and estuarine habitat and baiting for rodents during the nesting season.

## Location and area covered

Katikati and the surrounding catchments (including Uretara 4,100ha, Tahawai 7,670ha, Te Rereatukahia 1,860ha, Te Mania 1,300ha).

## Highlights for 2019

- Remediation of barriers to fish passage in 4 catchments.
- 300m of riparian planting on Tahawai & Uretara streams.
- Hosted a visit and wetland tree planting by the Minister for the Environment, David Parker.
- Good Management Practice workshops with industry groups, farmers and residents held for Project Parore.

- Successful funding applications to DOC for swamp maire restoration and fish passage remediation.
- Advocate for community on discharge consents: Katikati Quarry and Claymark sawmill.
- Stage 1 of the restoration plan for Haiku Park adjacent to the Uretara River completed.

## Key challenges in 2019

- Human resource constraints at an operational/project management level - current committee (volunteers) at capacity.

## Metrics in 2019

7 planting days with over 12,000 plants in the ground.

## Achieving success

UEM has a vision for all of the catchments that feed into the northern Tauranga Harbour to have community led catchment management plans that prioritise water quality improvements and biodiversity restoration. Key to achieving that vision is evolving the current governance and organisational structure and supporting it with skilled human resources.



“BCA is assisting UEM with know-how and can-do, especially in areas around policy and financial management. Being plugged into a professional organisation with a focus on conservation outcomes means we don’t have to recreate the wheel when it comes to best practice for a volunteer-run society.”

## WESTERN BAY WILDLIFE TRUST

### Purpose

Our emphasis is on the protection of native fauna and flora, and education to promote awareness and understanding of our native ecosystems here in the Western Bay of Plenty. The trust has a strong focus on monitoring and protecting the Kororā (little blue penguin) and Oi (grey-faced petrel) populations based around Mauao and Moturiki Island.

### Location and area covered

Based at Mount Maunganui and a focus on the western Bay of Plenty coastline but supporting wildlife across the region.

### Highlights for 2019

Further progress towards protecting little blue penguin habitat:

- enhancing relationships with Tauranga City Council.
- erection of a barrier on Moturiki Island to prevent trampling of nests/reduce erosion.
- improved predator control and new signage for dogs.
- Increased trustee consultation for wildlife management.

- Development of an interactive and educational Kororā workshop.
- Commitment towards a national monitoring programme with New Zealand Penguin Initiative.

### Key challenges in 2019

- Managing with a low financial reserves and a low number of skilled volunteers.
- Labour intensive scientific monitoring.
- Predation event during peak breeding season.

### Metrics

1000 volunteer hours, 2 educational tours, 7 education events, 3 clean-up days, 5 wildlife rescues, 14 grey-faced petrel chicks banded, 68 adult and 10 chick little blue penguins microchipped.

### Achieving success:

Realising the vision of our organisation requires more funding to enable us to increase awareness and community engagement and boost our advocacy and education reach. We have a strong desire to progress research and development so that we can ensure time and money is spent in an optimal way.



"BCA have supported us with general and financial admin as well as assisting us with funding.

We'd love help from them to procure skilled volunteers that can shoulder the workload of the current trustees at a secretarial and treasury level. We also see BCA as integral to development of our education programme and connecting us with other members to work collaboratively on big projects."





**OUR  
TEAM**





## **JULIAN FITTER**

*CHAIR*

Julian is a naturalist, conservationist, writer and lecturer with a particular interest in New Zealand wildlife and island ecosystems. Educated in the UK, Julian spent 15 years in the Galapagos Islands where he established and ran the first yacht charter operation. Since moving to New Zealand, he has become an ambassador for native wildlife, being involved in many aspects of conservation in the country, and the driving force behind Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society. He is our passionate founder of Bay Conservation Alliance.



## **GAVIN CHERIE**

*DEPUTY CHAIR*

Gavin got bitten by the conservation bug at a young age after taking part in Conservation Week with the Cubs at the age of eight. He has been volunteering at Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust for around 13 years and has been a trustee for the last 6 years. His main responsibility there is to secure commercial sponsorships for the Trust. Gavin is a chemical engineer and owns 2Plus which specialises in 'Green Chemistry'. His job allows him to travel around the country, but while at home he is a real outdoorsman, enjoying kayak fishing and surfing.



## **DAVID PETERS**

*SECRETARY*

David is an ex-business consultant and project manager, now growing avocados and contributing to conservation through the Aongatete Forest Project and in the wider Bay of Plenty through Bay Conservation. Having worked throughout New Zealand and Australia in large commercial and government enterprises over several decades, he is now enjoying working to develop what are literally grass roots organisations, to ensure they can continue to improve the environment and leave a legacy for those that follow.



## **MICHELLE ELBORN**

*CEO*

Michelle has a long-standing passion for the environment. Originally from the UK and having completed a master's degree in Conservation and Recreation Management she emigrated to Aotearoa in 2001 and was delighted to initially work for the Department of Conservation. Moving on to Tauranga City Council she spent the next decade working across sustainability, community development, strategy and communications. She is now very excited to be leading Bay Conservation Alliance, which presents a huge opportunity to develop a new model for community-led conservation.



**AMELIA DE RIDDER**  
TREASURER

Recently relocated to the Bay of Plenty, Amelia is passionate about protecting and preserving our environment for future generations to enjoy. Now retired, her previous work experience included Business Management for an Incorporated Society, Service Manager for Department of Conservation, and Planning and Human Resources for Shell Todd Oil Services. In Taranaki, weekends were spent tramping both on Mount Taranaki and in Eastern Taranaki. She now enjoys the climate and beaches in and around Tauranga.



**BARBARA MCGILLIVRAY**  
BOARD MEMBER

A volunteer at Aongatete Forest Project since 2008, Barbara became Chairperson in 2015 through until 2019 and is a current trustee. She is passionate about trying to preserve the strength and health of the Kaimai forests, promoting this by introducing visitors to what is alive at Aongatete. One of her most exciting moments at Aongatete was the sighting of a Helms Butterfly! At Aongatete the biodiversity of the forest is celebrated and is enhanced because of the ground-based pest control carried out by the volunteers.



**LAWRIE DONALD**  
BOARD MEMBER

Lawrie has a BAgSc in Soil Sciences from Massey University and has a wealth of experience in land management and conservation. Having worked overseas and locally in roles like Zone Manager for Waikato Regional Council and Senior Land Management Officer for Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Lawrie is now the Chair of Uretara Estuary Managers dedicating much of his time to the ecological restoration of the Uretara Estuary downstream from Katikati. He also contributes to other ecological issues by Chairing the Estuary Care Leaders Forum.



**TANIA GABORIT**  
BOARD MEMBER

A self-employed environmental consultant running Maketu Ecological Services Ltd, Tania is passionate about getting kids involved in conservation. She is the Education Officer for Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society. Tania believes the best way to get kids interested in the natural world is to get them out of the classroom and into the field, helping with planting, beach cleans and wildlife monitoring. She is also a MOWS representative on the BCA board. When not working hard, Tania spends time with her husband and young son, as well as horse riding, surfing and walking her dog on the beach.





## LOUISE SAUNDERS

*BOARD MEMBER*

After a 25-year career as an environmental consultant and project manager, Louise believes her job is all about problem solving. She is passionate about helping people work together positively to solve issues that matter to them, pulling together the threads of diverse experiences and networks to get things done. Although Louise has ecological and conservation skills, she joined the Board of Bay Conservation Alliance to contribute experience in governance, strategy and extending BCA's organisational reach to achieve its goal of landscape-scale conservation.



## LARRY O'NEIL

*BOARD MEMBER*

A passionate farmer and businessman who has worked all over the world, Larry hopes we can address some of our environmental challenges to leave a better place for future generations. His property neighbours the Otawa Scenic Reserve and he became actively involved in the development of the Te Whakakaha Trust which achieved Sanctuary status for the reserve in 2016, recognising the significance of the Hochstetler's frog. He supports the intention of BCA that we need to work together and raise awareness of the conservation needs in our area.



## BRIAN IRELAND

*EDUCATION MANAGER*

Born and raised in Wainuiomata, for the last two decades Brian has been involved in conservation education including roles like Education and Visitor Experience Manager at Zealandia Ecosanctuary and Education Manager at Auckland Zoo where he established an education programme on Rotoroa Island and the zoo's first mātauranga Māori programme. Prior to joining BCA Brian established a new Outreach Conservation department at Auckland Zoo focussed on delivering hands on experiential conservation education across the Auckland region – a concept Brian is excited to bring to the various BCA member groups in the BOP region.



## CLAIRE HARTLEY

*ADMIN SUPPORT*

A UK expat with a background in zoology and animal care, Claire is also an avid conservationist. Back in the UK she was a marine mammal rescue volunteer and has had a varied career including being a zookeeper, a farm park worker, and managing an exotic pet shop. She has recently retrained in website management and social media which is part of her job with BCA. She is involved in the work of Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society, both working in the field and helping with admin tasks.



**FINANCIALS**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2019

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>
Grants, Donations & Fundraising	231,990
Other Income	4,472
Interest	233
Membership	1,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>237,695</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Education & Event Delivery	71,021
Fundraising Expenses	1,685
Operational Support	112,329
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>185,035</b>
<b>Net (Profit)</b>	<b>52,660</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2019

<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>
Cash at bank	119,164
Accounts Receivable	6,204
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>125,368</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>	
Property Plant & Equipment	14,659
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>140,027</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Credit Card	852
GST	1,180
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,032</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>137,995</b>



# OUR SUPPORTERS

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS:







100 trapping volunteers enjoy John Bissell's presentation



We coordinate an Estuary & Stream clean up education programme with TCC, WBOPDC and BOPRC.



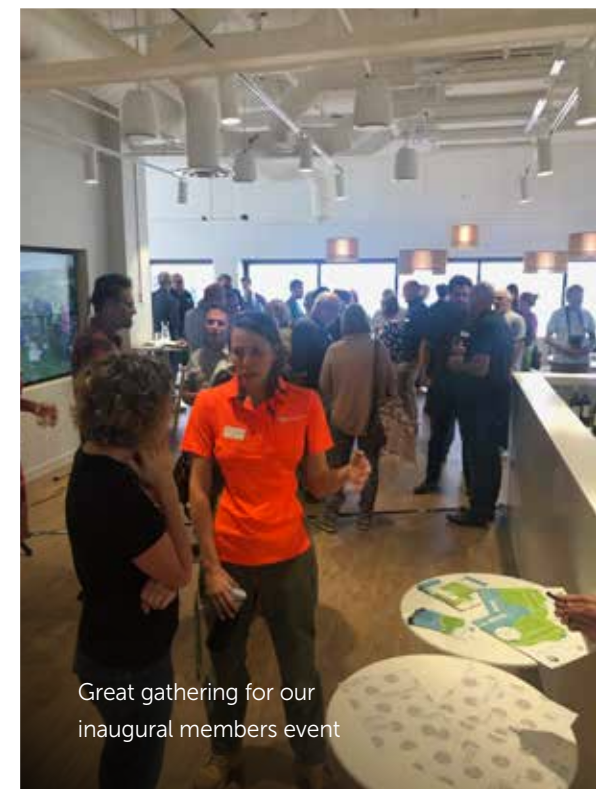
Education at Otanewainuku



We attended the Te Puke and Katikati A&P Shows



Volunteer trip to Maungatautari



Great gathering for our inaugural members event





Maketu spit with gull colony



# CONNECT WITH US



[www.bayconservation.nz](http://www.bayconservation.nz)



[www.facebook.com/bayconservation/](https://www.facebook.com/bayconservation/)



[michelle@bayconservation.nz](mailto:michelle@bayconservation.nz)